



# Press Release

Lake County Sheriff's Office  
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***Daniel A. Dunlap***  
Sheriff

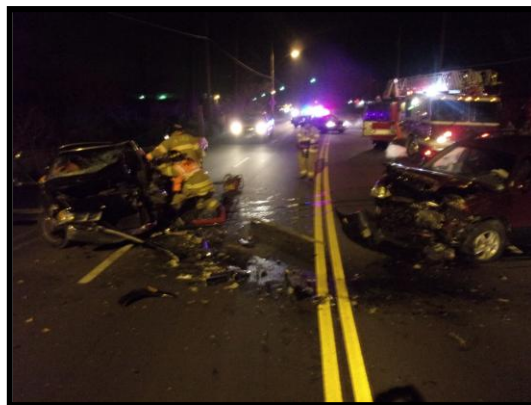
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

**November 13, 2012**

According to Lt. Todd Menmuir, on Friday, November 9, 2012 at 6:13 pm. the Lake County Sheriff's, along with Painesville Township Fire and Rescue, were dispatched to the area of 1290 North Ridge Rd. in Painesville Township, Ohio due to a reported injury accident.

Lt. Todd Menmuir, an accident reconstruction investigator, concluded that two motor vehicles were traveling on US 20, in opposite directions, and had collided head on. One vehicle, identified as a 2002 Hyundai Santa Fe, was being operated by Sarah K. Blask, a 20 year old female who resides in Painesville Township. The other vehicle, identified as 1990 Mercury Grand Marquis, was being driven by Michael D. Johnson, a 20 year old male who also resides in Painesville Township. The Hyundai had been traveling westbound, on the left lane of travel, and had traveled left of the center line, and into the path of the Mercury Grand Marquis. The Mercury had been traveling eastbound, on the left lane of travel, when it collided with the Hyundai.



The collision impact was severe. Extreme damages occurred to both involved vehicles. The force of the impact pushed the Mercury backwards, from the left lane of travel on to the right lane of travel. The force of the impact also deflected the Hyundai off the Mercury, and back on to the westbound lanes of travel. The airbags deployed in the Mercury and in the Hyundai. Sarah Blask and Michael Johnson were wearing their safety belts.

Michael Johnson became trapped inside the wreckage of Mercury and needed to be freed by mechanical means. Painesville Township Fire and Rescue used the "Jaws of Life" to extricate Michael Johnson from the Mercury. Michael Johnson was transported to Tri-Point Medical Center for medical treatment, and was then flown via Life Flight to Cleveland Metropolitan Hospital. Sarah Blask was transported to Tri-Point Medical Center for her medical treatment. Michael

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Johnson was admitted at Cleveland Metropolitan Hospital. Sarah Blask was treated and released.

Sarah Blask was determined to have contributed to this motor vehicle crash by means of driving left of the center line. Sarah Blask was cited for *Rules for Traveling in Marked Lanes*.

*Frank Leonbruno*

Chief Deputy Frank Leonbruno  
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